

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ADP-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FMC-04

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CG-00 COA-02 PM-09 H-02 L-03

NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 XMB-07 OMB-01

TAR-02 AGR-20 AID-20 IO-12 LAB-06 OIC-04 SIL-01

STR-08 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 CEA-02 /179 R

DRAFTED BY EB/ MA: RAWEBB: EW

4/27/73 EXT. 21313

APPROVED BY EB/ MA: RAWEBB

FMC: AREESE (SUBS)

AF/ W: JBISHOP

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P 272251 Z APR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ACCRA PRIORITY

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ETRN, GH

SUBJECT: ALLEGED GOG DISCRIMINATION AGAINST US SHIPPING
LINES

1. FARRELL LINES HAS COMPLAINED TO FEDERAL MARITIME
COMMISSION (FMC) THAT AS RESULT OF GOVERNMENT OF GHANA
DISCRIMINATION, FARRELL HAS NOT CARRIED ANY COCOA CARGOES
FROM GHANA TO US SINCE OCTOBER 1972. FARRELL CLAIMS THAT
COCOA EXPORT SHIPMENTS ARE CONTROLLED BY GOG.

2. AARON REESE, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF FMC, WROTE LETTER TO
QUARTEY, GOG SHIPPING DIRECTOR, APPROXIMATELY THREE MONTHS
AGO ON THIS MATTER BUT HAS NOT RECEIVED REPLY.

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3. FYI. FARRELL LINES HAS JUST NOW FORMALLY REQUESTED FMC TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST GHANA UNDER SECTION 19 OF MERCHANT MARINE ACT OF 1920. THIS PROVISION REQUIRES FMC TO TAKE RETALIATORY ACTION AGAINST FOREIGN ENTITY FOUND TO BE DISCRIMINATING AGAINST US SHIPPING LINES. END FYI.

4. DEPARTMENT UNDERSTANDS THAT GHANAIAN COCOA EXPORTS ARE CONTROLLED BY GHANAIAN COCOA MARKETING BOARD WHICH IS PARA- GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY AND THAT GOG MAY THEREFORE CLAIM THAT, AS GOVERNMENT- CONTROLLED CARGO, COCOA MAY BE SHIPPED EXCLUSIVELY ABOARD NATIONAL- FLAG VESSELS OR AS ROUTED BY GOG. USG ITSELF HAS CARGO PREFERENCE POLICIES

WHICH RESERVE GOVERNMENT- OWNED, - FINANCED, OR - IMPELLED CARGOES TO US FLAG. HOWEVER, WE ALSO MAKE AVAILABLE PORTIONS OF THESE CARGOES TO VESSELS OF IMPORTING COUNTRY, AS E. G. MARITIME ADMINISTRATION POLICY OF GRANTING WAIVER ON EXIM BANK CARGOES (WHICH NORMALLY 100 RESERVED TO US- FLAG) WHICH PERMITS VESSELS OF IMPORTING COUNTRY TO CARRY UP TO 50 OF THESE CARGOES, PROVIDING LATTER COUNTRY DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE AGAINST US SHIPPING. IN SIMILAR MANNER US URGES OTHER COUNTRIES PRACTICING CARGO PREFERENCE TO ALLOW EQUAL ACCESS FOR US- FLAG VESSELS TO THEIR GOVERNMENT- CONTROLLED CARGOES, AND THIS IS IN FACT COMMON PRACTICE IN MANY LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES.

5. EMBASSY REQUESTED URGENTLY TO RAISE MATTER WITH GOG AT APPROPRIATE LEVEL, PREFERABLY WITH QUARTEY, TO EXPLAIN THAT US CONSIDERS COMPLETE EXCLUSION OF US CARRIERS FROM COCOA CARGOES TO BE UNFAIR DISCRIMINATION AND, ON BASIS OF REASONABLENESS OF EQUAL ACCESS PRINCIPLE TO URGE GOG TO END SUCH DISCRIMINATION. ROGERS

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